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AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 16 November 1979, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania)

later: Mr. AMPOYOMO (United Republic of Cameroon)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, while world-wide publicity had been given to the serious difficulties which had been encountered in South-East Asia, the refugee situations in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere continued to demand equally pressing attention. The mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees represented the collective humanitarian concern of the world community and had become more urgent, more challenging and in many ways more complex. It was the responsibility of all to ensure the fulfilment of that mission. While refugee problems were the problems of human beings, and their solutions were solutions aiming at giving human beings a chance for a new life, there was no escaping the fact that those solutions must also be seen in the financial context. As a result of the ever-growing size and complexity of the refugee problems in various parts of the world, the already difficult task of UNHCR had expanded considerably. The responses received at recent pledging conferences had demonstrated the manifest determination and goodwill of participating nations but, in terms of the massive requirements confronting the world community, it was evident that only a dramatic increase in UNHCR's resources would enable the Office to accomplish its universal mission for humanity.

2. In 1980 the refugee problem confronting UNHCR would require $350 million, of which $234 million would be spent on General Programmes alone. Only with the goodwill and the fullest co-operation of all could such a sum be raised in the months to come. He therefore urged Governments to announce the maximum possible financial support for the 1980 General and Special Programmes.

3. Mr. Amboyono (United Republic of Cameroon) took the Chair.

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

4. The UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES said that 1979 had been a year in which vast numbers of human beings had been obliged to leave their homes and countries and seek refuge elsewhere. In Africa, the number of refugees had been estimated at 4 million, consequent upon situations existing in southern Africa and in countries such as the Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia. If a solution was found to the Zimbabwe problem, his Office would hope to repatriate 10,000 refugees within a few months. All were aware of the plight of the hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons in Asia. In Latin America, one main area of concern was assistance relating to the rehabilitation of some 100,000 former refugees who had repatriated voluntarily to Nicaragua from neighbouring countries.

5. Financial requirements for the General Programmes in 1979, initially estimated at $88 million, had had to be increased to some $177 million. Thanks to the generosity of Governments, contributions had kept pace with requirements and it had not been necessary to reduce essential assistance for lack of funds. A number of Special Programmes, notably those concerning Uganda, Nicaragua and Burma, were, however, seriously under-funded and his Office would continue its efforts to secure their full implementation.

(United Nations High Commissioner)

6. The financing of the programmes for 1980 was a matter of serious concern. Financial requirements under the General Programmes for 1980, as approved by the Executive Committee, totalled $234 million. When account was taken of newly arisen needs and the requirements of the Special Programmes, the total figure for 1980 was likely to be in the region of $350 million. Moreover, past experience had shown that unforeseen refugee situations might require upward revisions of budget estimates. It was more important than ever before that Governments should pledge their contributions as early as possible and preferably at the Pledging Conference. Substantial advance pledging was essential to ensure that implementation of the 1980 General Programmes would be started at the very beginning of the year, at an adequate level and in an orderly way throughout the world, so that postponement of essential assistance could be avoided. In view of the need for maximum flexibility in implementation and in order to ensure that better known projects should not benefit at the expense of equally deserving but less publicized ones, he appealed to Governments to limit earmarking their contributions to the extent consistent with their legislative requirements.

7. He was aware of the economic situation facing the developing countries in particular and appreciated that very often it was the developing countries which welcomed large groups of refugees in their territory, in itself an extremely important and significant contribution. Thus far, in 1979, a total of 76 Governments had contributed to his programme, with 15 countries accounting for 82 per cent of all donations. It was thus essential not only that contributions be greatly increased but also that those countries which had not in the past contributed generously should do so in 1980.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

8. The representative of CANADA said that the escalating task of the High Commissioner's Office could be measured when it was remembered that its regular budget had risen from some $88 million in October 1978 to approximately $233 million one year later. The serious refugee problems in South-East Asia and in Africa explained the growing need for additional resources. The Government of Canada had therefore decided to increase its contribution to the General Programmes by 12.5 per cent to $CAN 2,250,000, subject to parliamentary approval. Furthermore, as a country of resettlement it had spent considerable amounts in resettling refugees in its territory. Costs which would be met by her Government in respect of the 50,000 refugees which it had agreed to take from South-East Asia would be on the order of $118 million. Her Government was acutely aware of the problems created by mass influxes of refugees, especially for the countries of resettlement, and permanent solutions must be sought. She wished to pay a tribute to the countries of first asylum, but expressed the hope that as many countries as possible would offer permanent homes to refugees and displaced persons who could not return to their countries of origin.

9. The representative of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY said that on 12 November his country had donated DM 20 million to UNHCR, of which DM 6 million was for the purpose of establishing and supporting processing centres in the Philippines and

(Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany)

DM 3 million for the same purpose in Indonesia; DM 8 million was for refugees from Kampuchea in Thailand and in the border area, while the balance of DM 3 million was for general care and support of refugees in South-East Asia coming from the countries of Indo-China. In addition to those special measures, his Government pledged its regular voluntary contribution for 1980, which would amount to DM 3.5 million, representing an increase of DM 1 million over 1979. It would also do its best to contribute to emergency relief programmes and to funds-in-trust projects.

10. During 1979 his Government, in addition to its regular contribution, amounting to DM 2.5 million, had provided DM 10 million in humanitarian assistance for refugees from Indo-China and more than DM 2 million for other relief measures, particularly for refugees in Somalia and Djibouti and refugees from Angola in Zaire and from Zimbabwe/Rhodesia in Mozambique, as well as for the schooling of refugees in Thailand. It had also agreed to take 13,000 refugees from Indo-China and was considering raising that number to 20,000 thus entailing a further considerable financial effort.

11. The representative of JAPAN said that, while the problems pertaining to refugees were basically of a humanitarian character, they were nevertheless intrinsically related to the peace and stability of the region where they arose and, indeed, of the whole world. That was particularly true in the case of the Indo-Chinese refugees, whose numbers exceeded 500,000, thus placing enormous economic and social burdens on neighbouring countries. In the search for a solution his Government had announced in July its readiness to provide half of the funds required for the 1979 UNHCR Assistance Programme for Refugees from Indo-China. It was also doing its utmost to facilitate the resettlement in Japan of Indo-Chinese refugees. In addition to contributions of $31.5 million and $3.5 million to Special Programmes for refugees from Indo-China, his Government, on 5 November, had announced a contribution of approximately $30 million in respect of emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea. He was unable to pledge a specific amount for 1980, as the Government's budgetary proposals were still at the preparatory stage. However, his Government was considering its contribution for 1980 and would communicate the figure to the Secretary-General when the budgetary proposals were in their final form.

12. The representative of GREECE announced a voluntary contribution for 1980 of $60,000, subject to parliamentary approval, representing an increase of 33 per cent over 1979.

13. The representative of ICELAND pledged an amount of $20,000 to the General Programme for 1980, subject to parliamentary approval. That amount represented an increase of one third over the figure for 1979.

14. The representative of BELGIUM said that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government pledged a contribution of BF 20 million, equivalent to $US 700,000, for the General Programme for 1980 - representing double the 1979 pledge - an amount not yet specified for Special Programmes and BF 2 million for the operation of the office of the High Commissioner's representative in Brussels. In 1979 his Government had allocated BF 156 million, equivalent to $5 million, for refugees from Indo-China in Belgium; two thirds of that amount had been channeled through UNHCR's Special Programmes.

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15. The representative of SWEDEN said that all countries should contribute more generously to UNHCR's activities, both within and outside the Regular Programme. Currently, however, 90 per cent of all contributions were coming from only 10 countries. That situation was most unsatisfactory and must be remedied. One remedy might be to supplement pledging conferences by preparatory negotiations in order to arrive at more equitable financing.

16. His Government had already allocated $14 million for the financial year 1979-1980 to all UNHCR programmes, compared with $11 million the previous year. His delegation was convinced that long term general pledges covering periods of several years would make for increased stability in UNHCR's planning.

17. Sweden pledged a total of SKr 30 million, or almost $US 7.5 million, for the regular budget of UNHCR for 1980 and SKr 40 million, or almost $9.5 million, for each of the years 1981 and 1982, subject to parliamentary approval. As in the past, it would also be prepared to make extra contributions if circumstances so required.

18. The representative of SWITZERLAND announced his Government's contribution, subject to parliamentary approval, of SwF 1,500 to the General Programme for 1980. In addition, a sum of SwF 400,000 had been earmarked for special assistance needs arising during 1980.

19. The representative of ISRAEL said that his Government wished to make a voluntary contribution to the General Programme for 1980 but, owing to budgetary procedures which were as yet incomplete, he could not make any announcement at that time. He would inform the Secretariat of his Government's decision in due course.

20. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA pledged $5 million to the General Programme for 1980, subject to parliamentary approval.

21. The representative of DENMARK said that his country's contributions to the General Programme and Special Programmes for 1979 had been increased to more than $8 million, which brought his country's entire 1979 expenditure for assistance to refugees to more than $30 million. His Government pledged, subject to parliamentary approval, the sum of Dkr 15 million, the equivalent of approximately $US 3 million and more than double the 1979 contribution, to the 1980 General Programmes. Furthermore, it pledged Dkr 6.8 million, the equivalent of $US 1.3 million and an increase of 10 per cent over the 1979 level, to the Special Programmes. The total Danish pledge to UNHCR programmes for 1980 represented an increase of 72 per cent over the 1979 level.

22. The representative of MEXICO pledged, subject to parliamentary approval, $20,000 to the 1980 programme.

23. The representative of AUSTRALIA pledged, subject to parliamentary approval, $A 3.78 million, the equivalent of $US 4.35 million, for the 1980 programme. Of that amount, $A 3 million were earmarked for programmes benefiting Indo-Chinese refugees.

24. The representative of CHILE announced his Government's contribution of $20,000 for 1980, an increase of 33 per cent over the 1979 level.

25. The representative of YUGOSLAVIA announced his Government's contribution of $30,000 to the General Programmes for 1980.

26. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA announced her Government's intention, subject to Congressional approval to pledge $48,350,000 as an initial contribution to the 1980 General Programme. Of that sum, $30 million were intended for ongoing UNHCR programmes to benefit Indo-Chinese refugees, $16.9 million for General Programmes to benefit African refugees and $1.45 million for action to benefit refugees in other areas. Furthermore, with reference of the special operations to benefit Khmer refugees in Thailand, her Government intended to increase its 1979 contributions to $15 million. The total United States contribution of $63,350,000 for 1980 might be increased as needs arose and were identified. Her Government was willing to support up to one third of the costs for General Programmes needs in Africa and 30 per cent of General Programme needs in South-East Asia and was ready to bear an appropriate share of costs in other areas. Two programmes were of particular interest to her Government, namely, the refugee processing centres in Indonesia and the Philippines, to which it had already contributed, and efforts to find a durable solution for refugees, i.e. projects which would be useful to Governments and people for absorbing and, if possible, reabsorbing refugees and which her Government was willing to support fully.

27. The representative of SPAIN announced his Government's contribution, subject to parliamentary approval, of $30,000 for 1980.

28. The representative of INDIA pledged the amount of 100,000 rupees in non-convertible currency, which would be payable through the UNDP office in New Delhi.

29. The representative of MONACO pledged 3,000 francs.

30. The representative of SENEGAL said that Senegal would contribute $3,000 to UNHCR for its 1980 programmes. That small contribution demonstrated the importance which Senegal attached to the problem of refugees, particularly since it had itself had to face that problem in the past.

31. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that the Netherlands Government would make a voluntary contribution to the programme for 1980 of f. 10.3 million (approximately $US 5.1 million), subject to parliamentary approval; that pledge represented an increase of approximately $US 1.1 million compared with the 1979 contribution. As in the past, his Government intended to provide additional funds to UNHCR for specific purposes on the basis of the needs which arose and of budgetary considerations. In 1979, in addition to its regular contribution, it had made available to UNHCR approximately $US 10 million in the form of special-purpose contributions for a variety of programmes and projects. His Government also contributed to the work of several other agencies concerned with the care of refugees, such as the International Committee for the Red Cross, the International University Exchange Fund and several Netherlands relief agencies; in 1979, such assistance amounted to approximately f. 7 million.

32. The representative of FINLAND said that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government pledged Fmk 1,450,000 (about $US 376,000) for the programmes of UNHCR. It had also decided to contribute Fmk 100,000 (about $US 26,000) to the special account established by the Executive Committee at its previous session. Those contributions reflected his Government's continuing concern of the world refugee situation and its confidence in UNHCR.

33. The representative of ITALY said that for many years Italy had been a country of first asylum and resettlement. Over the past 30 years more than 100,000 refugees had been admitted to and assisted in Italy, placing a heavy burden on her Government amounting to some $1.7 million per year. However, in view of the vital importance of the programmes carried out by UNHCR in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and, on a smaller scale, in Europe, the Italian Parliament had decided in 1979 to contribute Lit 50 million per year to the regular programme of UNHCR for the period 1978 to 1980. She therefore confirmed Italy's commitment of Lit 50 million to the regular programme of UNHCR in 1980.

34. The representative of LEBANON expressed appreciation of the relief and assistance programmes which were being financed and carried out in Lebanon by UNHCR. In 1979 her Government had contributed to UNHCR a symbolic amount of $2,000; it would make a voluntary contribution of $20,000 for the regular programme of UNHCR for 1980.

35. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM siad that the United Kingdom was a major contributor to UNHCR programmes and provided assistance in other practical ways. Since his Government was still considering its aid programme for 1980-1981, he was unable to announce its pledge to UNHCR's general programme for 1980. It expected to make a further substantial contribution which would be announced in due course.

36. The representative of TUNISIA said that, subject to approval by the National Assembly, his Government pledged D 1,380 to UNHCR, 15 per cent more than in 1979, as an expression of its support for the High Commissioner's work and its concern at the aggravation of the situation of refugees.

37. The representative of TURKEY said that his Government deeply appreciated the work of UNHCR. Since the appropriate budgetary procedures had not yet been completed, his Government would inform the Secretariat of its contribution to UNHCR for 1980 at a later stage.

38. The representative of VIET NAM said that because of the many difficulties resulting from war and natural disasters, his Government was able to make only a symbolic contribution to UNHCR of the equivalent of $US 2,000 in national currency, which would be made available to the UNHCR office at Hanoi. Viet Nam had always regarded the problem of refugees from a humanitarian angle. It would continue to co-operate with UNHCR in the implementation of the latter's programmes on the basis of its foreign policy of peace, friendship, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations with all countries.

39. The representative of HONDURAS said that his Government would contribute $1,000 to UNHCR for 1980.

40. The representative of URUGUAY said that his Government would make a voluntary contribution to UNHCR of $2,000 for 1980.

41. The representative of AUSTRIA said that Austria had been a country of first asylum since the end of the Second World War; the Austrian people were particularly sympathetic to the needs of refugees and the private initiatives to alleviate their hardships must be taken into account in assessing Austria's contribution to solving the world refugee problem. The Austrian Government had spent over S 87 million (about $US 6.8 million) for refugees in 1978 and nearly S 100 million ($US 7.7 million) in 1979, and planned to spend over S 122 million (about $US 9.5 million) in 1980. His Government would contribute $US 60,000 to the regular programme of UNHCR. Because of the magnitude of the refugee problem at the present time, his Government was considering an additional contribution of $US 40,000, subject to parliamentary approval.

42. The representative of PAKISTAN said Pakistan had had first-hand knowledge of the invaluable services rendered by UNHCR on behalf of suffering humanity in the South Asian region. Although Pakistan's resources were limited, it attached great importance to the humanitarian work performed by UNHCR, and it would contribute PRs 23,560 for the general programme of UNHCR in 1980.

43. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that his Government was deeply concerned about the plight of the refugees from South-East Asia and elsewhere and recognized the importance of the humanitarian work of UNHCR. The ASEAN countries had been greatly affected by the exodus of Indo-Chinese refugees and had acted responsibly and with humanitarian concern. His Government had extended all possible co-operation to alleviate the plight of the Indo-Chinese refugees and had set up two processing centres with a capacity for 60,000 refugees. Because of the Philippines' limited capacity and financial difficulties, the processing centres were funded by the United Nations and only refugees who had been accepted for resettlement were accepted at them. His Government acknowledged the assistance pledged by some developed countries for the maintenance of Indo-Chinese refugees in the Philippines. The Philippines had in the past responded to a number of appeals for assistance to Indo-Chinese refugees. His Government pledged, as a voluntary contribution, the amount of $5,000 to the 1980 programme of UNHCR. That represented an increase of 57 per cent over the 1979 pledge, and must be seen in the context of the totality of the contributions made by the Philippines.

44. The representative of ARGENTINA said that her Government pledged $50,000 to UNHCR for 1980; that was double its contribution in 1979.

45. The representative of the LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC expressed his Government's appreciation of activities to help displaced nationals of Laos, as well as the activities of UNHCR in other parts of the world. His country was in a difficult economic situation because of two unprecedented natural disasters and was therefore unable to increase its voluntary contribution to UNHCR for 1980; it would thus contribute $2,000.

46. The representative of OMAN said that his Government would make a nominal voluntary contribution to the general programme of UNHCR for 1980 of $US 6,000.

47. The representative of NORWAY said that his Government regarded the refugee problem as a joint responsibility of the international community; it was the duty of all countries to contribute to solving that problem. It therefore hoped that there would be a fairer sharing of the burden of financial contributions to UNHCR. His Government had for many years been a main contributor to the regular budget of UNHCR and on numerous occasions it had responded to appeals for contributions to be used in special situations. His Government's contribution to the regular programmes of UNHCR for 1980, subject to parliamentary approval, would amount to Nkr 19.9 million (approximately $US 4 million), of which Nkr 4.9 million ($US 1 million) would be earmarked for the educational programme. That contribution was nearly double Norway's contribution in 1979. Additional contributions by Norway to UNHCR had increased its total contribution to Nkr 38.8 million (approximately $US 7.8 million).

48. The representative of VENEZUELA said that her Government would increase to $20,000 its contribution to UNHCR for 1980.

49. The representative of ALGERIA said that her Government would contribute $26,620 to UNHCR for 1980. That was an expression of its support for the humanitarian work of UNHCR and of its solidarity with refugees of all nationalities. It hoped that UNHCR's humanitarian work, while alleviating the sufferings of refugees from all parts of the world, would contribute to the search for permanent solutions to enable the refugees to return to their countries.

50. The representative of PANAMA said that his Government regretted that, because of serious budgetary problems, it was unable to make any pledge at that time. Nevertheless, it understood the seriousness of the situation of refugees and, if possible, would make a contribution at a later stage to demonstrate its concern.

51. The representative of MADAGASCAR said that his Government would contribute FMG 500,000 to UNHCR for 1980. The size of its contribution reflected its limited means. His Government hoped that the political problems which prevented refugees from enjoying a normal life in their own countries would be resolved; it would continue to contribute to the search for permanent solutions to those problems and called upon the international community to do likewise.

52. The representative of MALAYSIA said that Malaysia was already deeply involved in humanitarian efforts in caring for thousands of immigrants from Viet Nam who had entered Malaysia as a place of first transit pending resettlement in third countries. With all the financial implications of that work, his Government was able to make only a token contribution to UNHCR of $US 1,500.

53. The representative of INDONESIA said that his Government shared the High Commissioner's concern at the worsening refugee situation in the world. Indonesia had just embarked on its third five-year development programme, which required all the financial resources at the Government's disposal. His country was currently sheltering over 40,000 Indo-Chinese refugees and displaced persons who were awaiting settlement elsewhere. Even when the funds contributed by UNHCR were taken into account, the temporary presence in his country of those persons, together with the construction of the necessary facilities for a processing centre, unavoidably resulted in an extra financial burden for his Government.

(Representative of Indonesia)

54. However, as an expression of solidarity with the efforts made by the international community as a whole and as a token of its continued support for the work of the High Commissioner everywhere in the world, his Government pledged the amount of $3,000 as its contribution for 1980.

55. The representative of QATAR said that, in recognition of the importance of UNHCR's programmes to assist refugees and displaced persons everywhere in the world, his Government pledged the sum of $10,000 for 1980.

56. The representative of LUXEMBOURG announced that his Government pledged a voluntary contribution of 320,000 Luxembourg francs for 1980. That sum, which would be in fully convertible currency, was subject to parliamentary approval.

57. The representative of the HOLY SEE announced a pledge of $2,500 for the progamme and activities of UNHCR for 1980. During the past year, the Holy See's Pontifical Council had contributed $51,000 to UNHCR. During that same period, the specialized Catholic organizations had made contributions in the amount of $3,500,000 and DM 1,500,000, together with a contribution of an equivalent value in food, medicines and various services.

58. The representative of the SUDAN commended the High Commissioner for his untiring efforts to alleviate the suffering of refugees all over the world. In accordance with its own convictions and its commitment to regional and international conventions on the rights of refugees, his country was currently sheltering 412,000 refugees. That number was far too large for a country with such limited resources. His Government acknowledged with appreciation the assistance that the UNHCR programme rendered to refugees in his country. However, the number of refugees who lived outside regular refugee settlements was growing, and such persons now constituted 78 per cent of the total refugee population. That category of refugees shared with the local population the already often inadequate services available. In his Government's view, that situation called for additional financial assistance, and it therefore requested the High Commissioner to review his programme of allocations to the Sudan, in order to meet the increasing demand for services.

59. In view of the increasing problems that the Sudan was experiencing as a result of the refugee influx, the Government planned to declare the following year a refugee year in his country in order to draw the attention of the international community to the problems of refugees there and to secure the necessary assistance.

60. As its contribution for 1980, his Government pledged the amount of LSd 3,000. On an annual basis, his Government allocated the amount of LSd 25 million ($US 50 million) to services for refugees in the Sudan.

61. The representative of PORTUGAL said that his country fully supported the High Commissioner's activities, and it was in that context that his delegation had sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35 on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which had been adopted the preceding day in the Third Committee. His country had also taken an active part in the meeting on refugees

(Representative of Portugal)

and displaced persons in South-East Asia, held at Geneva in July of the current year. On a number of occasions his Government had expressed concern at the flow of refugees in that region, and it had tried to cope with the problems resulting from their arrival in the Portuguese territory of Macao. In addition to that contribution, his Government pledged a contribution in the amount of $7,500 to UNHCR's regular activities.

62. The representative of EGYPT said that her Government wished to pledge the sum of LE 3,000, as a token contribution.

63. The representative of FRANCE said that owing to her Government's budgetary procedures she was not, strictly speaking, in a position to make a pledge. However, in view of the seriousness of the refugee problem she had been authorized to announce a contribution of F 3.2 million which represented an increase of 20 per cent over the preceding year.

64. The representative of GHANA said that, among the developing countries, his country made relatively substantial contributions to the UNHCR programmes. However, he had as yet not received instructions from his Government regarding its contribution for 1980. The necessary information would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

65. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that her country contributed annually to the General Programmes of UNHCR, and in March of the current year it had made a special contribution of $200,000 for assistance to refugees from Indo-China. Her country had also been assisting in the resettlement of refugees from many parts of the world, particularly from Indo-China during the past year.

66. She was not in a position to make a precise pledge for 1980, although her Government would certainly be maintaining its current level of $75,000. At the beginning of the current week her country's Minister for Foreign Affairs had announced that an additional special contribution of $100,000 had been allocated to the international programme of relief for the people of Kampuchea, and it was intended that the sum should be administered by UNHCR. Confirmation of that latter point would be provided in the near future.

67. The representative of SOMALIA said that his country would continue to co-operate fully with the High Commissioner. His Government had already expressed concern on a number of occasions at the financial burden resulting from the considerable influx of refugees into his country.

68. His Government intended to double its previous contribution by pledging an amount of $2,000 to the General Programmes for 1980.

69. The representative of COLOMBIA announced a contribution of $12,000, which was subject to parliamentary approval.

70. The representative of IRELAND said that in its statement under agenda item 83 in the Third Committee at its 46th meeting, his delegation had already made observations regarding current programmes. He wished to reaffirm his Government's support for the valuable humanitarian work of UNHCR.

71. In recent years his Government had substantially increased its financial support for the High Commissioner's programmes. Its contribution for 1979 had been more than double that of the previous year. Although his Government intended to continue its support, owing to domestic budgetary arrangements it was not possible to indicate the exact figure of his Government's contribution for 1980. That figure would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

72. The representative of the UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON said that his Government wished to pledge an amount of CFAF 750,000 for 1980, which represented an increase of more than 100 per cent over the previous year.

73. The CHAIRMAN expressed his appreciation of the contributions that had been announced as well as of the humanitarian work that was being done by the High Commissioner. The problem of refugees was universal and the response to that problem must also be universal. The statements made during the meeting were indicative of an encouraging response from all quarters of the globe. However, the refugee problem was an extensive and complex one and, in spite of the generosity of the host countries, the financial goal for 1980 had necessarily been set at a high level.

74. The UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES expressed his gratitude for the generous contributions pledged by Governments. On the basis of a preliminary estimate, he was in a position to inform the Ad Hoc Committee that the total sum of the contributions pledged was approximately three times the amount that had been pledged the preceding year. Pledges of approximately $140 million had already been made. He particularly wished to thank those Governments that had increased their contributions so generously, as well as those that had made contributions for the first time. He hoped that the Governments that had not been in a position to state their precise contributions would soon be able to do so.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.